

# NASHVILLE

## ★ Occupied City ★

### Decisive Battle of the Civil War

Historians have called the Battle of Nashville one of the most decisive of the Civil War. In February 1862, Nashville had been the first major Southern city to fall to Union forces. After losing Atlanta to Sherman in September, 1864, Confederate Gen. John Bell Hood moved his Army of Tennessee north, hoping to reclaim Nashville for the Confederacy. It is thought that Hood planned to use Federal supplies captured here and to move on, either through Kentucky and Ohio, splitting the Union in two, or to Virginia to meet up with Robert E. Lee, where the two would take on Ulysses S. Grant. Either of these plans, if successful, would have changed the course of the war. But the Battle of Nashville sent Hood's forces running to the south in defeat, ending his hope of saving the Confederacy. The Battle of Nashville was the last major engagement of the Civil War.

During the three years the Union occupied Nashville, the city became a fortified supply center for the Western Theater (everything west of the Appalachians and east of the Mississippi River). It was the most fortified city of the war, second only to Washington, D.C. Nashville was guarded by Gen. George Thomas, a Virginian who remained loyal to the Union. He had a force of 66,000 soldiers. Hood's strategy was to dig in with his force of 21,000 south of town and draw Thomas out to attack his positions, hoping to move in and take the city on a counter charge. Hood had advanced to within sight of Nashville by December 2, 1864. Thomas, cautious and deliberate, waited to attack until he was ready despite nearly continuous nagging over the telegraph from General Grant and President Lincoln who feared he would lose his advantage if he waited and allowed Hood to fortify himself.

A severe ice storm paralyzed the area on December 8. A thaw finally came on the fourteenth and Thomas attacked the next day. Accompanied by bombardment from Fort Negley on the morning of the fifteenth, Thomas moved from the river west of town toward the south and east, engaging Confederate forces and pushing them back. On the sixteenth both sides had formed new lines. During the day on the sixteenth, the three main Confederate positions fell like dominoes, first the left at Shy's Hill, then the center, a few miles to the east. After the evacuation of the right position at Peach Orchard Hill, the remaining Confederate forces fled to the south. Hood's army had been virtually wiped out. He resigned his command the following January. General Thomas was promoted to Major General in the Regular Army.

Col. D.C. Kelley and Forrest's old regiment with four guns captured two boats and harassed U.S. gunboats and Cumberland River traffic in the Bell's Bend area until Dec. 15.

★ Brookmeade Park at Kelley's Point Battlefield

Brig. Gen. James R. Chalmers Cavalry

Belle Meade Plantation



Gen. Hood at Redoubt No. 4

Artwork courtesy of Rick Reeves.

On Jan. 13, 1865, Hood resigned his command of the Army of Tennessee. It has been estimated that Hood lost 2,300 men killed or wounded at Nashville, in addition to 8,500 taken prisoner. During the entire campaign, the army lost 23,500 of its 38,000 men.

It is estimated the U.S. Army suffered 6,000 casualties during the entire campaign.

On April 9, 1865, less than four months after Hood's defeat, Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered to Gen. U.S. Grant at Appomattox Court House, VA, effectively ending the war.



Tennessee State Capitol converted by U.S. Army to Fort Andrew Johnson

Maj. Gen. James H. Wilson Cavalry

Col. D.C. Kelley

Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas (66,000)

Maj. Gen. Andrew J. Smith Detachment of the XVI Corps

Brig. Gen. Thomas J. Wood IV Corps

Maj. Gen. John M. Schofield XXIII Corps

Belmont Mansion

### First Day of Battle Thursday, December 15, 1864

Confederate Redoubt No. 1

Confederate Redoubt No. 2

Confederate Redoubt No. 3

Confederate Redoubt No. 4

Confederate Redoubt No. 5

Confederate Supply Train

Confederate Supply Train

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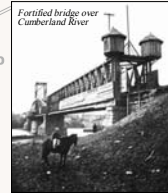
Confederate Supply Train

Gen. John Bell Hood Army of Tennessee (21,000)

More Information Available at the Battle of Nashville Preservation Society Website: [www.bonps.org](http://www.bonps.org)

### Battle of Nashville At a Glance

Dates:	Dec. 2-16, 1864	(CSA) Gen. John Bell Hood
Commanders:	(US) Gen. George Thomas	23,207
Combat Strength:	49,773	5,962
Casualties:	3,061	
Outcome:	Decisive U.S. Victory	



Fortified bridge over Cumberland River



### U.S. Colored Troops

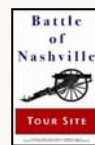
More than 5,000 U.S. Colored Troops fought for the U.S. Army in the Battle of Nashville, one of the largest concentrations of colored troops in any battle of the war. Under the command of Major Gen. Steedman, black soldiers participated in the assaults on the Confederate right flank near Rains' Hill on Dec. 15 and at Peach Orchard Hill on Dec. 16, suffering heavy losses.

In particular, the 13th U.S. Colored Troops lost 220 officers and men in a valiant but desperate attack on Peach Orchard Hill in which five successive colorbearers were shot down.

The brave black soldiers who fell in battle at Nashville are buried at the Nashville National Cemetery.



Section of Blockhouse Battery at Casino Hill



Actual Tour Stops Are Marked With This Sign.

★ Designates Tour Stop on Map

### About the tour

This tour includes the main points of the Union defenses of Nashville and of the Confederate lines on the first and second days of the battle, as well as preliminary engagements prior to the main conflict. All the stops on the tour can be reached using public streets. Tour stops are marked on the map with green stars.

Please consult the Battle of Nashville Preservation Society website at [www.bonps.org](http://www.bonps.org) and a Nashville city road map for more precise driving directions.

There are a number of historical markers along the route or nearby. Stopping to read them will enhance the tour. Please drive carefully.

The tour sites are located in several well-tended suburban neighborhoods. It is easy, especially in such pleasant surroundings, to forget the horrors of war. To get the most from this tour, try to imagine the area the way it was in December, 1864—ruined farms and wilderness and the bitter cold of winter. Hood's army was exhausted, having marched from Atlanta since late September, fighting along the way. Food and firewood were scarce, and the men were poorly clothed. Some had no shoes. While the Union soldiers were better fed and clothed, life in occupied Nashville was not especially pleasant either. With the influx of occupation soldiers and slaves from the countryside, the small city had grown almost overnight into a grossly overcrowded city, now waiting out the dreary years of war. Combat was fierce and personal—often hand-to-hand—and medical care was crude at best. Physical pain and the presence of disease and death were the norms of living.

### A caution

Some tour sites are located on streets that are frequently busy. Enjoy the tour, but remember to drive carefully and defensively.

### A request

Please respect the rights of property owners. When the text mentions private property, it means just that: the property is private.

# NASHVILLE: Occupied City • Decisive Battle of the Civil War

## Battle Sites

### Brookmeade Park at Kelley's Point Battlefield

Located in west Nashville off Charlotte Pike along the Cumberland River. It is being developed as a Metro Park.

For two weeks prior to the battle, six artillery pieces under the command of Confederate Lt. Col. D.C. Kelley effectively blockaded the Cumberland River against seven heavily armed U.S. Navy gunboats. The Confederate cavalry and U.S. gunboats clashed in six separate engagements.

**B-3 on Map**

### Shy's Hill

**E-8 on Map**

Historical marker and steps up the hill on Benton Smith Road off Harding Place. Parking is minimal.

It was at Shy's Hill on Dec. 16, 1864 during the Battle of Nashville that U.S. troops finally broke the Confederate line on the left flank, resulting in a decisive Northern victory.

Known as Corydon Hill during the battle, it was renamed after Confederate Col. William Shy, who was killed there.

Approximately two acres of the site are owned by the Battle of Nashville Preservation Society.

### Granbury's Lunette

**H-5 on Map**

Located at 190 Polk Avenue. Granbury's Lunette was at the extreme right of the Confederate Infantry under General Cheatham. Following the Battle of Franklin, Granbury's Texas brigade was reduced to 344 men and led by Captain Edward T. Broughton (General Granbury was killed at Franklin). The lunette was attacked on Dec. 15 by General Steedman, under whom were Colonels Grosvenor, Shafter, and Corbin. The U.S. Army retreated north and east with heavy losses.

## Headquarters

### Belmont Mansion

**E-5 on Map**



Located at 1900 Belmont Blvd. Call (615) 460-5459.

An ornate Italianate villa built in 1850 outside the city limits of Nashville, Belmont was the estate of Adelia Acklen, one of the wealthiest women in America.

Although the mansion was located at the U.S. Army fortification line, it was not damaged during the Battle of Nashville in 1864. Northern scouts used the 105-foot-tall brick water tower, which still stands, as a lookout point and to relay signals. The mansion served as the headquarters for U.S. Gen. T.J. Wood during the battle.

### Belle Meade Plantation

**B-6 on Map**



Located at 5025 Harding Rd. (West End Avenue). Call (615) 356-0501 or (800) 270-3991.

Belle Meade was headquarters to Confederate Gen. James R. Chalmers of Forrest's cavalry command prior to the Battle of Nashville.

On Dec. 15, U.S. soldiers burned the Confederate wagons parked at the racetrack while Chalmers was fighting on Charlotte Pike. Returning to Belle Meade, Chalmers' escort charged the Northerners and drove them back before running into a U.S. infantry camp.

### Travellers Rest

**G-9 on Map**



Located at 636 Farrell Parkway, off Franklin Pike. Call (615) 832-8197. Travellers Rest (1799) served as the headquarters of Confederate Gen. John Bell Hood prior to the Battle of Nashville. Today the estate is interpreted as an antebellum working farm.

## Fortifications

### U.S. Fort Negley

**G-4 on Map**

The remains of U.S. Fort Negley are located on a high hill south of downtown Nashville at the confluence of Interstates 65 and 40.

**Not open to the public.**

The opening guns of the Battle of Nashville, Dec. 15-16, 1864, were fired from Fort Negley, although the fort itself was never directly attacked at any time during the war. The European-style fort is named after U.S. Gen. James S. Negley, who was stationed briefly in Nashville in 1862.



### U.S. Blockhouse Casino

**F-5 on Map**

Located on Eighth Ave. South, the city water reservoir (1887-89) sits atop Kirkpatrick Hill, the site of Blockhouse Casino during the Civil War. It was built by the U.S. Army occupation forces as part of the fortifications surrounding the city to the south and the west. **Site closed to the public.** Across Eighth Avenue are the remains of Fort Negley, the major fortification built at the time.



**F-3 on Map**

### Tennessee State Capitol

Located on Charlotte Ave., between 6th and 7th avenues. The Tennessee State Capitol, completed in 1859, is the Greek Revival masterpiece of architect William Strickland. During the occupation, the capitol was transformed into Fort Andrew Johnson, named after the military governor. The building is a National Historic Landmark. The grounds feature statues of Johnson, who later became U.S. President, and Sam Davis, a Confederate scout who was hanged by the U.S. Army after he refused to betray his associates. At nearby War Memorial Plaza is the Women of the Confederacy statue.

### Confederate Redoubt No. 1

**E-6 on Map**

Redoubt No. 1 is a lot located in a residential sector at 3423 Benham Road, off Woodmont Blvd. near Hillsboro Pike.

Redoubt No. 1 is open to the public from dawn to dusk free of charge. Parking space is minimal.

Redoubt No. 1 was one of five redoubts (small forts) built by Gen. John Bell Hood's Confederate Army as it occupied the countryside south of Nashville in December 1864.

The redoubt was located at the far left (western) salient of the main Confederate line. Only the remnants of the earthworks remain.

On the first day of the Battle of Nashville, December 15, the U.S. Army attacked all five forts. Redoubt No. 1 was the last to fall.

This redoubt is one of the last remaining battlefield sites in Nashville. The Battle of Nashville Preservation Society owns the property.

## Hospital Sites

### Metro Planning Department Building

Located at 724 Second Ave. South, this historic limestone Gothic Revival building (1853) housed Western Military Institute, run by Col. Bushrod Johnson, later a Confederate general. All of the school's cadets joined the Confederate army. One of them was Sam Davis, later hanged by the U.S. Army. During the occupation, the building was used by the U.S. Army as Hospital No. 2, housing 300 beds. Today, it houses the Metro Nashville Planning Commission. The building is closed to public tours.



**G-3 on Map**

### Downtown Presbyterian Church

Located at 427 Church Street (at 5th Ave.) A rare example of Egyptian Revival architecture, this twin-towered brick church (1851), originally the First Presbyterian Church, was one of many buildings used as hospitals during the U.S. Army occupation of the city during the Civil War. It was designated Hospital No. 8 and housed 206 beds.

The building was designed by William Strickland, who also designed the State Capitol. Like the State Capitol, the church is a National Historic Landmark.



**F-3 on Map**

### Sunnyside Mansion

**F-6 on Map**

Located in Sevier Park on 12th Ave. South (Granny White Pike). Sunnyside (built 1840s) was located directly between the U.S. and Confederate lines prior to the Battle of Nashville. Afterward it served as a hospital for wounded soldiers.

## Cemeteries

### Confederate Circle at Mt. Olivet Cemetery

Located at 1101 Lebanon Road. Call (615) 255-4193.

The 250-acre cemetery (1855) is situated on a hilltop, graced with large, old trees and evergreens, and impressive statuary, crypts, and tombs.

After the Civil War, the women of Nashville bought land at Mount Olivet and formed Confederate Circle. The remains of about 1,500 Confederate soldiers were moved here from area battlefields.

A 45-foot-tall granite monument to the Confederate soldier marks the center of the circle.

Seven Confederate generals are buried in or near the circle. They are William B. Bate, William N.R. Beall, Benjamin Franklin Cheatham, William H. Jackson, George E. Maney, James E. Rains, and Thomas Benton Smith. Other prominent Nashville Confederates: Colonels Adolphus Heiman and Randall McGavock, lie nearby.



**I-3 on Map**

### Nashville City Cemetery

**G-4 on Map**

Located at 1001 Fourth Ave. South at Oak Street; (615) 862-7970.

Located, figuratively, in the shadow of Fort Negley on St. Cloud's Hill, the City Cemetery is one of the oldest public cemeteries in the region (est. 1822) and holds the remains of many early settlers.

U.S. and Confederate dead were buried in separate areas here, with U.S. soldiers eventually moved to the National Cemetery and Confederates to Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

Buried here are Confederate Generals Bushrod Johnson, Felix Zollicoffer, Richard Ewell, and Samuel R. Anderson.

Also, Capt. William Driver, a loyal Unionist whose sons fought for the Confederacy. Capt. Driver was overjoyed when the U.S. Army occupied the city in early 1862, and it was his old American flag, nicknamed Old Glory, which was flown above the state capitol.

### Nashville National Cemetery

**F-1 on Map**

Located at 1420 Gallatin Rd. South, Madison. Call (615) 736-2839.

Established as a U.S. Military Cemetery on Jan. 28, 1867, it holds the graves of more than 16,000 Civil War soldiers, including nearly 3,600 unknown. U.S. Colored Troops are also buried here.

Monuments include a memorial by the State of Minnesota to her fallen soldiers.



### Battle of Nashville Peace Monument

Located at Granny White Pike between Clifton Lane and Battlefield Drive.

Small park with unique monument (1928) memorializing the soldiers of the United States and the Confederacy who fought in the Battle of Nashville, and the American soldiers who fought in World War I. It is the only monument of its type dedicated to all soldiers who fought in those wars.

The monument was commissioned by the Ladies' Battlefield Association and sculpted by Giuseppe Moretti of Italy. The bronze sculpture of a youth and horses features the inscription "Unity," and the stone obelisk is topped by an angel.

This site is located near the center of the Confederate lines on the first day of battle. In 1959, the monument was relocated from its original site on Franklin Pike near the I-65/I-440 interchange, where the old base still stands, marking the site of one of CSA Gen. Stephen D. Lee's batteries on Dec. 15.

**F-6 on Map**



## All Battle of Nashville Tour Stops Are Marked With This Sign:



Please refer to the BONPS website at [www.bonps.org/tour/tour.htm](http://www.bonps.org/tour/tour.htm) for precise driving directions and maps.

Private property should be viewed from the public right-of-way only. Please do not enter private property without owner consent.

## Driving Tour and Map of The Battle of Nashville

Dec. 2-16, 1864



## The Decisive Battle of the Civil War

Includes large 1864 battle map and map of driving tour to battlefield sites and local attractions

The Battle of Nashville Preservation Society and Civil War Roundtable, Inc. and The Metropolitan Historical Commission

## For More Information:



The Battle of Nashville Preservation Society and Civil War Roundtable, Inc.  
Message Line: (615) 780-3636  
Website: [www.bonps.org](http://www.bonps.org)

Metropolitan Historical Commission  
Phone: (615) 862-7970  
Website: [www.nashville.org/hc](http://www.nashville.org/hc)

The Battle of Nashville Preservation Society (BONPS) is a non-profit 501(C)(3), non-political organization dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of Civil War sites in Davidson County, Tennessee. Since 1989 BONPS has saved three valuable sites in Nashville: six acres of Shy's Hill, Confederate Redoubt No. 1, and Kelley's Point Battlefield. BONPS owns the first two of these sites, and is seeking tax-deductible donations to retire the debt on those properties. Please send your contributions to P.O. Box 121796, Nashville, TN 37212.

Further Reading:  
Horn, Stanley F. *The Decisive Battle of Nashville*. 1956. Reprint. Knoxville, TN: University of Tennessee Press, 1968.  
Sword, Wiley. *The Confederacy's Last Hurrah*. University Press of Kansas, 1992.

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